

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PGOV, PINT, WB, GE, GW,UR

SUBJECT: EAST GERMAN CONCESSIONS TO WEST BERLIN

1. SUMMARY: EAST GERMAN FONOFF OFFICIAL MITDANK CALLED ON GOVMAYOR SCHUETZ DECEMBER 9 TO CONVEY NUMBER OF GDR CONCESSIONS, INCLUDING ELIMINATION OF MINIMUM CURRENCY EXCHANGE FOR PENSIONERS, IMPROVEMENT OF TRAVEL CONDITIONS IN GDR FOR WEST BERLIN RESIDENTS, SALE OF ELECTRICITY TO WEST BERLIN FROM 1975 ON, WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE ON OPENING OF TELTOW CANAL AND PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF TRANSIT ROUTES. GDR CONCESSIONS WERE OBVIOUSLY MADE IN REPLY TO FRG WILLINGNESS EXTEND AND EXPAND SWING CREDITS WHICH WAS REPORTED IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND DEC 2. END SUMMARY.

2. EARLY DECEMBER 9, DR. MITDANK, GDR FONOFF REPRESENTATIVE, MET WITH GOVMAYOR SCHUETZ AND SENAT OFFICIAL KUNZE IN SCHUETZ'S OFFICE IN RATHAUS
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SCHOENEBERG. MEETING WAS PROPOSED TELEGRAPHICALLY BY

GDR ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 8. MITDANK READ AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH CONTAINED FOLLOWING PROPOSALS:

A. EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 20, MINIMUM CURRENCY EXCHANGE REQUIREMENTS FOR PENSIONERS (MEN 65 YEARS OLD, WOMEN 60 YEARS OLD) VISITING EAST BERLIN/GDR WHO ARE RESIDENT IN WEST BERLIN WOULD BE ELIMINATED.

B. EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 20, WEST BERLIN RESIDENTS WILL BE PERMITTED TO USE THEIR PERSONAL VEHICLES TO VISIT ALL PARTS OF THE GDR, EXCEPT CLOSED AREAS NEAR BORDER.

C. C. GDR IS PREPARED TO SUPPLY UP TO 300 MEGAWATTS OF ELECTRICITY FROM EAST GERMAN NET TO WEST BERLIN FROM 1975 ONWARD. (MITDANK MENTIONED THAT WHILE GDR IS PREPARED TO DELIVER IN LATE 1975, FIRST DELIVERIES FROM FRG NUCLEAR PLANT AT KALININGRAD COULD ONLY BE EXPECTED IN LATE 1970S OR EARLY 1980S).

D. GDR IS WILLING BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH SENAT OVER OPENING OF TELTOW CANAL FROM THE WEST.

E. GDR WISHES TO SIGN RECENTLY-CONCLUDED AGREEMENTS ON CONSTRUCTION OF SECOND SPANDAU LOCK, RECOVAL OF SEWAGE AND EXCHANGE OF LETTERS ON TWENTY-YEAR TRASH REMOVAL CONTRACT.

F. GDR WILLING TO IMPROVE TRANSIT TRAFFIC BY MEASURES INCLUDINGC SHORTING OF TRAVEL TIMES BETWEEN BERLIN AND BERLIN/HAMBURG AND HANOVER BY REOPENING STAAKEN BAHNHOF AND ADDING SECOND SET OF TRACKS; SHORTENING OF TRAVEL TIME ON BERLIN(WEST)-GRIEBNITZSEE-MAGDEBURG-MARIENBORN ROUTE; SHORTENING OF TRAVEL TIME BETWEEN BERLIN(WEST-GRIEBNITZ-HALLE-PROBSTZELLA-LUDWIGSSTADT ROUTE BY CONSTRUCTING SECOND SET OF TRACKS, BETWEEN NOW AND 1980 CUTTING 50 MINUTES OFF BERLIN-HOF ROUTE; ADDING STOPS AT CHARLOTTENBURG, SPANDAU AND WANNSEE BAHNHOF IN ADDITION TO BAHNHOF-ZOO FOR TRAIN TRAVEL TO FRG, CONSTRUCTION OF AUTOBAHN TO HAMBURG CONNECTION TO

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BERLIN-ROSTOCK AUTOBAHN; RECONSTRUCTION OF HEKSTEDT AUTOBAHN AND CONSTRUCTION OF SIX LANE AUTOBAHN ON BERLINER RING BETWEEN LEIPZIG AND DREWITZ TURNOFFS TO IMPROVE TRANSIT TRAFFIC ROUTING OVER DREWITZ CHECKPOINT. (SCHUETZ SUBSEQUENTLY REMINDED MITDANK THAT THESE MATTERS FELL WITHIN COMPETENCE OF TRANSIT COMMISSION OR BUNDESBahn/REICHsbahn CHANNEL.)

G. GDR WOULD STRENGTHEN COMMERCIAL TIES WITH WEST BERLIN, SPECIFICALLY THROUGH IMPROVEMENT OF RAILWAY CARS, HIGH-FASHION WOMEN'S CLOTHING, MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT (TO A VALUE OF 20,000,000 MARKS) AND SLAUGHTERHOUSE EQUIPMENT.

3. AT PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING MEETING WITH MITDANK, SCHUETZ RELEASED SUBSTANCE OF GDR PROPOSALS WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS THE "MOST POSITIVE" HE HAD SEEN IN HIS SEVEN YEARS AS MAYOR. HE NATURALLY EMPHASIZED PRE-CHRISTMAS LIFTING OF MINIMUM CURRENCY EXCHANGE REQUIREMENT FOR PENSIONERS.

4. COMMENT: GDR CONCESSIONS WILL BE HELPFUL TO SCHUETZ IN COUNTERING CHARGES THAT WEST BERLIN IS OBTAINING LITTLE FROM FRG CONCESSIONS TO GDR. MITDANK SHOPPING LIST, EVEN IF IT INCLUDES ITEMS WHICH ARE PROPERLY SUBJECT OF GDR-FRG NEGOTIATIONS, WILL AT LEAST DISPEL PREVAILING IMPRESSION THAT FRG TRADED SWING CREDIT FOR MODEST CONCESSIONS ON PENSIONERS ALONE. SELIGMANN

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